

**FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 7, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

Due to Governor Tom Wolf's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Disaster Declaration on March 6, 2020, a virtual/remote public Council Meeting was held via phone/zoom. The remote participation option for residents was provided on the Borough's website www.fountainhill.org. Remotely participating Council members were: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Rufe, Mr. Trabel, Ms. Halleman and Mayor Gifford. Also remotely participating were Anthony Branco (Borough Manager), Cordula Voges (Finance Director), Pete Lehr (Solicitor), Brad Youst (Hanover Engineering), Chief Bachert, Jason Quarry (PW Supervisor), Derek Richmond (Fire Co. Chief), and guests.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Blatt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

In observance of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Council spent a moment of silence to honor the Americans who were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

MINUTES

- Minutes of November 18, 2020

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gifford was pleased about the residents' interest in the Christmas decorating contest.

Council President Blatt asked Mayor Gifford for her recommendation to move the recently hired part-time Police Officer Matthew Devers to full-time employment.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter		x	x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.						
Mayor Gifford						

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

- Sanitary Sewer Inspection Proposals

Mr. Branco asked for a motion to approve the initiation of the sanitary sewer inspection project. Mr. Youst (Hanover Engineering) added that actual work could be started after the holiday break considering the contractor’s insurance and bonding process has been completed. Mr. Trabel asked if a street schedule was set. Mr. Youst explained that the sanitary sewer inspection will include main lines, laterals (public portion of laterals only), and manholes, but a street schedule has not been established. He also stressed that a “fresh” inspection and video camering of all the sanitary infrastructure will be needed to pursue the project. Four contractors have submitted proposals so far – Pipe Services Corporation of West Chester is the lowest bidder.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan	x		x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

- Draft Ordinance – Lateral Inspections

Mr. Branco reiterated that most of the inflow and infiltration (I&I) occurs when groundwater and/or storm water from private laterals flows into the wastewater collection system. The draft ordinance is addressing this issue. He is asking for a motion to start the legislative process for the ordinance.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson			x			

Wilbert Rufe
 Doug Trotter
 Philip Trabel
 Helen Halleman
 Norman E. Blatt Jr.
 Mayor Gifford

		x			
	x	x			
x		x			
		x			
		x			

- Pre-approval for paying bills through the end of December

Mr. Branco asked for permission to pay bills through the end of the month in case the 2nd Council Meeting scheduled for December 23, 2020 will be canceled.

Annamarie Jordan
 Jamie Johnson
 Wilbert Rufe
 Doug Trotter
 Philip Trabel
 Helen Halleman
 Norman E. Blatt Jr.
 Mayor Gifford

Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
	x	x			
		x			
		x			
		x			
x		x			
		x			
		x			

NEW BUSINESS

- Request of Ameenah Thompson, 912 Seneca St. requesting parking permission for a gaming truck for 90 minutes (between 10 and 11 30 am) for her daughter’s birthday on Jan 17, 2021

Mr. Lehr (Solicitor) confirmed that any legal issues would prohibit it. Ms. Johnson raised concerns in light of COVID-19 restrictions.
 The Motion was denied.

RESOLUTIONS

- Extending Emergency Declaration

RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 33

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN THE BOROUGH AS A RESULT OF THE TRANSMISSION OF A NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UNTIL FEBURARY 1, 2021, AND FOR THE TAKING OF ALL RELATED ACTIONS

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

ORDINANCES - none

MOTIONS

- Wiley St. payment applications #3, 4 for the Wiley St. Reconstruction project in the amount of \$2,817.00 (#3) and \$19,969.98 (#4).

Mr. Trotter reminded that payment approval needs to be dependent on the vendor fulfilling certain conditions.

Mr. Branco stated funding is provided through Liquid Fuel plus a partial Lehigh County Conservation District grant award for the alley grass conversion.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan			x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel		x	x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

- Stanley/Hoffert CDBG Grant 2019 - payment application # 2 and 3, Grace Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$74,622.90 (#2) and \$28,650.19 (#3) as certified by Hanover Engineering.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter			x			
Philip Trabel	x		x			

Helen Halleman		x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.		x			
Mayor Gifford					

OLD BUSINESS –

Council President Blatt inquired about the Body Cameras for Police Officers. Chief Bachert informed that a purchase of Body Cameras is not grant funded. Currently, only two departments in the Lehigh Valley use them. The estimated cost for Body Cameras is approx. \$26k.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT - none

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Fountain Hill Fire Company update

Mr. Lehr reminded that the Borough has not exercised certain provisions in the current ordinances. He has drafted an ordinance that confirms the status of the Voluntary Fire Co. as the Borough’s official fire department and repeals other sections.

Council consented to advertise the draft ordinance.

Mr. Lehr also recommended to amend the bylaws of Voluntary Fire Co. in respect to the changes in the draft ordinance. Council President Blatt stated that the Borough would cover the legal fees for the bylaws’ amendment.

- Borough Manager - Council Meeting Schedule

Mr. Branco reminded Council to review the meeting schedule as referenced in Resolution 2020-21.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan)

Motion to pay bills

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Annamarie Jordan		x	x			
Jamie Johnson			x			
Wilbert Rufe			x			
Doug Trotter	x		x			
Philip Trabel			x			
Helen Halleman			x			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			x			
Mayor Gifford						

B. Public Works (Jordan, Trotter, Rufe) –

Public Works interviews will be held on December 16. Ms. Halleman is asking to attend.

Mr. Lehr stipulated that the Committee Meeting needed to be advertised as a meeting of the majority to comply with the Sunshine Act.

C. Police (Blatt, Trotter, Johnson)

Ms. Jordan asked if the Police Department is collecting Toys for Tots again this year. Chief Bachert reported that they are working with Helping Hands instead, wrapping gifts and turning them over to Turning Point.

D. House & Ordinances (Rufe, Halleman, Jordan) - none

E. Fire (Trabel, Halleman, Rufe)

The Voluntary Fire Co. was selling Christmas trees at the Swimming Pool – they are sold out in the meantime.

F. Recreation (Johnson, Rufe, Trabel) –

Ms. Johnson announced that the 2021 January meeting will be held to potentially develop a recreation plan dependent on the status of COVID-19 vaccinations.

G. Health & Sanitation (Halleman, Johnson, Trabel)

Ms. Halleman read the utility collection reports for November.

H. Personnel (Trotter, Blatt, Jordan) – none.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Ms. Jordan reported that the Bethlehem Area Public Library still offers limited access to browse for books and/or use the computers. Reservations are required.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items

Mr. Langton of 1215 Broadway asked about the Sanitary Sewer inspection. Mr. Youst elaborated on the inspection process and scheduling of traffic regulations.

As inquired by Mr. Trabel, Mr. Youst explained that the Sanitary Sewer inspection is to investigate the structural condition of the sanitary system, document it and determine the scope of the rehab project. Contractors will be required to submit weekly summary reports for each of the 12 basins and generate a list of rehab projects to address each basin's needs. The ultimate rehabilitation project will be coordinated with Pennvest after the inspection project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed) – none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 PM Council President Blatt asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Trabel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson and unanimously approved.

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

By: _____
Norman E. Blatt Jr.- President of Council

SUBMITTED

By: _____
Cordula Voges, Finance Director

ATTEST:

By: _____
Anthony Branco, Borough Manager

Next Resolution 2020-34
Next ordinance 859